

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,603	10/08/2000	Mark Yablonski	020431.0990	5144
7590 06/04/2004			EXAMINER	
Christopher W. Kennerly, Esq.			WANG, JIN CHENG	
Baker Botts L.L.P. Suite 600		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
2001 Ross Avenue			2672	14
Dallas, TX 75201-2980			DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004	4 7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
	09/680,603	YABLONSKI ET AL.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
	Jin-Cheng Wang	2672			
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the	correspondence address			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) dwill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS fro	timely filed ays will be considered timely. m the mailing date of this communication. IED (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 M	arch 2004 and 09 April 2004.				
	action is non-final.				
3) Since this application is in condition for allowar	nce except for formal matters, p	rosecution as to the merits is			
closed in accordance with the practice under E	x parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11,	453 O.G. 213.			
Disposition of Claims					
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>13-46</u> is/are pending in the application	า				
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.					
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>13-46</u> is/are rejected.					
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.					
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	r election requirement.				
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine	r.				
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) acce		Examiner.			
Applicant may not request that any objection to the					
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct	ion is required if the drawing(s) is o	bjected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).			
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	aminer. Note the attached Offic	e Action or form PTO-152.			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119					
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of:	priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).			
1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents	s have been received.				
2. Certified copies of the priority documents		ition No.			
3. Copies of the certified copies of the prior	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
application from the International Bureau	(PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	-			
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list	of the certified copies not receive	ved.			
Attachment(s)	A 🗆 1-1	(PTO 442)			
) UNotice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4) 🔲 Interview Summai Paper No(s)/Mail I	Date			
Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	5) Notice of Informal 6) Other:	Patent Application (PTO-152)			

Art Unit: 2672

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the RCE filed on 4/9/2004. The amendment filed on 03/18/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 46 have been amended. Claims 13-46 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- 2. Claims 13, 15-18, 21-23, 24, 26-29, 32-34, 35, 37-40, 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Strasnick et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,885 (hereafter Strasnick).

3. Claim 13:

Strasnick teaches a system for display graphical information related to a supply chain (See the abstract; figure 13; column 6), comprising:

A database operable to store data associated with the supply chain (column 7); and

Art Unit: 2672

A graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the database and operable to (e.g., column 7 and 8):

Display a graph comprising a plurality of axes (e.g., figures 1-7; column 1 and 16), a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension (e.g., column 6-7 and 16)

comprising:

A plurality of levels each comprising one or more members (column 7-8), the plurality of levels comprising a first level (e.g., cells representing the departments' sales) comprising a plurality of members (departments or departments' cells) arranged in a predetermined manner with respect to the first axis (axis has been taught in figures 1-7 and column 1 and 16) and a second level (cells representing the salespersons' sales) comprising a plurality of members (salespersons or salespersons' cells) arranged in a predetermined manner with respect to the first axis (axis has been taught in figures 1-7 and column 1 and 16); and

A parent member in a first level (the parent member being a department cell in the department level being the parent of all the salespersons cells belonging to the department; column 7-8) being related to one or more child members in the second level (the children cells are the salespersons cells belonging to the department; see for example, column 7-8, lines 10-30) through a predetermined hierarchical relationship such that supply chain data (sales data) for the parent member (department cell) in the first level (department level) represents an aggregation (cumulative aggregation such as the cumulative sales data) of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (children cells representing the salespersons' sales) in the second

Art Unit: 2672

level (salesperson level) and such that supply chain data (sales data) for the one or more related child members in the second level (the children salespersons cells representing the disaggregation of the department cell to which they belong) represents a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member in the first level (column 7 and 8);

In response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the first level (column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16), at least one member in the first level being the parent member having the one or more related child members in the second level and representing an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (column 7 and 8; Strasnick teaches in column 7-8 and 19-22 a user selection of a cell representing the company's total sales (a company cell) and all the sub-cells or children cells representing the departments' sales (the department cells) wherein the department cells emanate from the company cell and also all the sub-cells or children cells representing the salespersons' sales (the salesperson cells) wherein the salespersons' cells emanate from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the hierarchical dependents or children such as the department cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the departments' cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick thus teaches, in response to the user selection of the departments' cells in the first level for display of departments' sales data with respect to the x-axis by a warp navigator from the company cell, display on the graph the departments' sales data or departments' cells in the first level); and

Art Unit: 2672

In response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 7-8 and columns 1 and 16), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the second level, one or more members in the second level being the one or more related child members of the parent member in the first level and representing a disaggreagation of supply chain data for the parent member (column 7 and 8, Strasnick also teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the salespersons' cells in the second level in response to the selection by the navigator from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick discloses, in response to a user selection of the second level for display of salespersons' sales data with respect to the x-axis from a department cell by the warp navigator, display on the graph the salespersons' sales data or the salespersons' cells in the second level).

- Examiner Notes:
- Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape with respect to the x-axis and y-axis wherein the X- axis of every display object is narrowed or expanded. The 2D plane or 3D box upon which the information objects are drawn has the X-dimension and Y-dimension or x-axis and y-axis as clearly taught by Strasnick in column 16-17.
- Strasnick discloses adjusting a width or height of a display of the information objects relative to the viewpoint of the user. Strasnick discloses the x-axis being associated

Art Unit: 2672

with the x dimension of the sales data, the x dimension or horizontal dimension for the x axis being associated with the sales data hierarchy having the parent levels and children levels displayed in the information landscape with the x-axis and y-axis of sales data for the x dimension or the horizontal dimension (see Figure 5B, column 6-8, 16-17, 20). Therefore, Strasnick reads on the claim limitation of "a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension."

Claim 15:

The claim 15 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy (column 6-8); each of the plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region (column 7); and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level (column 8).

Art Unit: 2672

Claim 16:

The claim 16 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 17:

The claim 17 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level.

Art Unit: 2672

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of the plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of the plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 18:

The claim 18 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member (column 8 and 10).

Claim 21:

The claim 21 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of "receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a

Art Unit: 2672

graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection."

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection (column 8 and 20).

Claim 22:

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 21 except additional claimed limitation of "displaying a window indicating the particular member specified in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member."

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of displaying a window indicating the particular member specified in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member (column 8 and 20).

Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a

predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension (e.g., figure 1; column 1 and 3).

4. Claim 24:

The claim 24 is a re-phrasing of the claim 13 in a method form. The claim 13 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 26-29:

The claims 26-29 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-

18.

Claim 32-34:

The claims 32-34 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-

23.

Claim 35: 5.

The claim 35 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 37-40:

The claims 37-40 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-

18.

Claims 43-45:

The claims 43-45 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-

23.

6. Claim 46:

The claim 46 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 8. Claims 14, 19-20, 25, 30-31, 36, 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick U.S. Patent No. 5,861,885 (hereinafter Strasnick).

Claim 14:

Art Unit: 2672

The claim 14 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of "a second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data".

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together and the vertical or Y dimension of the displayed data objects may be compressed as well. Strasnick therefore suggests a second axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data similar to the first axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data into the Strasnick's invention to provide multidimensional manipulation of hierarchical levels of the supply chain data (column 16).

Claim 19:

The claim 19 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the selected particular member".

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display

simultaneously together and displayed objects being displayed in altered or shrunken perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the "display on the graph only" into the Strasnick's invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claim 20:

The claim 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member of each non-selected member of the first level."

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together using different perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the "display on the graph the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member" into the Strasnick's invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claims 25, 30-31:

The claims 25 and 30-31 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Claims 36, 41-42:

Art Unit: 2672

The claims 36 and 41-42 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Remarks

- 9. Applicant's arguments, filed 03/18/2004, paper number 14, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.
- 10. Applicant argues in essence with respect to the new claim 13 and similar claims that:

 (A) "Strasnick discloses the hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape irrespective of any axis. (See, e.g., Column 4, Lines 27-29 and Column 6, Lines 26-29)."

In response to the arguments in (A), the Examiner asserts that Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). In contrary to Applicant's assertion that Strasnick discloses the hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape *irrespective of any axis*, Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information landscape with respect to the x-axis and y-axis wherein the X- axis of every display object is narrowed or expanded. The 2D plane or 3D box upon which the information objects are drawn has the X-dimension and Y-dimension or x-axis and y-axis as clearly taught by Strasnick in column 16-17.

Art Unit: 2672

Applicant argues in essence with respect to the new claim 13 and similar claims that:

(B) "Strasnick fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a graphical user interface coupled to a database and operable to 'display a graph comprising a plurality of axes, a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension,' as recited in Claim 1.

Although Strasnick uses the term 'axis,' Strasnick makes clear that the term 'axis' is used only to refer to a width (i.e. X axis) or height (i.e. Y axis) of a display or of one or more objects in the display such that a user may alter the user's perspective of the information landscape... Strasnick discloses adjusting the perspective of the information landscape by adjusting the X or horizontal dimension relative to the viewpoint of the user."

In response to the arguments in (B), the Examiner asserts that Strasnick discloses hierarchy being displayed on a ground plane of the information with respect to the x-axis and y-axis (See column 1 and 16-17). Strasnick discloses adjusting a width or height of a display of the information objects relative to the viewpoint of the user. Strasnick discloses the x-axis being associated with the x dimension of the sales data, the x dimension or horizontal dimension for the x axis being associated with the sales data hierarchy having the parent levels and children levels displayed in the information landscape with the x-axis and y-axis of sales data for the x dimension or the horizontal dimension (see Figure 5B, column 6-8, 16-17, 20). Therefore, Strasnick reads on the claim limitation of "a first axis being associated with a first dimension of

Art Unit: 2672

the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension."

12. Applicant argues in essence with respect to the new claim 13 and similar claims that:

(C) "Strasnick does not discuss such 'warping' to various levels of the hierarchy for display of associated data with respect to any axis. Strasnick fails to disclose, teach, or suggest 'in response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the first level," as recited in Claim 1. Similarly, Strasnick fails to disclose, teach, or suggest 'in response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the second level, 'as recited in Claim 1."

In response to the arguments in (C), the Examiner asserts Strasnick teaches the claim limitation as recited in the Claim 1 for the reasons given below.

For example, Strasnick teaches in column 7-8 and 19-22 a user selection of a cell representing the company's total sales (a company cell) and all the sub-cells or children cells representing the departments' sales (the department cells) wherein the department cells emanate from the company cell and also all the sub-cells or children cells representing the salespersons'

Art Unit: 2672

sales (the salesperson cells) wherein the salespersons' cells emanate from one of the departments' cells.

Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the hierarchical dependents or children such as the department cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the departments' cells in the first level in response to the selection by the navigator from the company cell. Strasnick thus teaches, in response to the user selection of the departments' cells in the first level for display of departments' sales data with respect to the xaxis by a warp navigator from the company cell, display on the graph the departments' sales data or departments' cells in the first level.

Strasnick also teaches warp navigation in which a navigator warps to the salespersons' cells in the second level in response to the selection by the navigator from one of the departments' cells. Strasnick discloses, in response to a user selection of the second level for display of salespersons' sales data with respect to the x-axis from a department cell by the warp navigator, display on the graph the salespersons' sales data or the salespersons' cells in the second level.

Therefore, Strasnick teaches the claim limitation of 'in response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, displaying on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the first level." Strasnick also teaches the claim limitation of 'in response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, displaying on the graph a

graphical representation of supply chain data for each of the plurality of members in the second level,' as recited in Claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jcw

MICHAEL RAZAVI SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600